

Simplified key to coral genera in the wildlife trade (continued)

Go To:

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| 46. Colonies branching, encrusting, columnar or submassive with:
protuberant corallites, round or oval, >5 mm diameter with conspicuous smooth-
edged exsert septa. Plocoid growth form. | |
| a. colonies form intricately branched clumps | <i>Acrhelia</i> |
| b. colonies not branching; cylindrical corallites protrude several centimeters
above the coenosteum; corallites have spiky appearance | <i>Galaxea</i> |
| 47. Small, massive clumps, often < 5 cm diameter, with protruding tubular corallites
of uneven height; corallites up to 1 cm diameter, with smooth surface; bright
yellow, orange, pink, green or black coloration | 48 |
| 48. a. septa are arranged in alternating cycles of 6, with each cycle becoming
progressively smaller | <i>Tubastraea</i> |
| b. septa are arranged in alternating cycles, but the septa in the third and fourth
cycles fuse together | <i>Dendrophyllia</i> |

Galaxea (1999: 15,800 pieces, primarily live)

- “Galaxy Coral” polyps have 12 tentacles; tubular corallites have 24 or more septa
- corallites are plocoid, but can become phaceloid as they increase in length;
corallites are fluted, with exsert septa that are easily broken
- live colonies are tan, green, pink, brown or gray-beige;
- colonies may be several meters in diameter and small sections are often
removed from larger colonies

Acrhelia horrescens (1999: 51 live) may be synonymous with *Galaxea*

- colonies branch delicately, and can form structures 1 m in diameter and height
- coral skeleton has a smooth, polished appearance
- corallites are spiky and resemble those of *Galaxea*
- live corals may be ivory, yellow, grey, tan or green

Tubastraea (Dendrophyllia) (1999: over 7,000 pieces in trade, most live)

- “Sunflower Coral” colonies are ahermatypic (they do not build reefs and they do not
contain symbiotic algae) and are very colorful orange, red, yellow, green and
occasionally black
- corallites are elongate, tubular and have a smooth appearance
- septa visible on retracted specimens
- tentacles may be retracted or partially extended in the day, and fully extended at
night
- survival in aquaria is reported to be high for orange and red varieties, and low for
black varieties (*T. micrantha*)
- captive-reared colonies are available
- these corals are often difficult to distinguish from *Dendrophyllia*

Dendrophyllia and *Tubastraea* are only distinguishable by close examination of the internal skeletal structures. Both have tubular polyp skeletons that often flare toward the tips and are arranged in clusters; these genera can not be readily differentiated when alive.

Tubastraea micrantha is distinctive in that it forms tall, branched colonies with cylindrical polyp tubes.



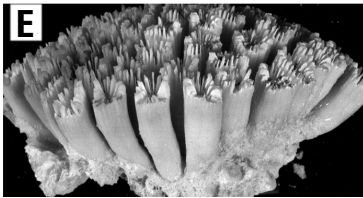
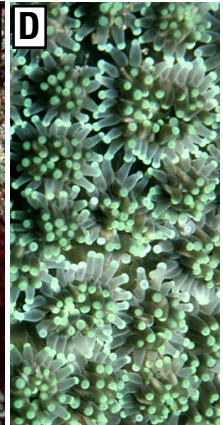
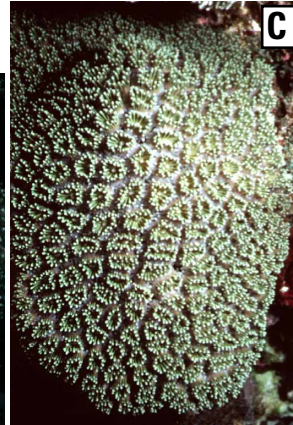
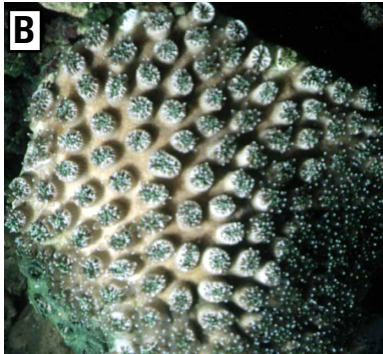
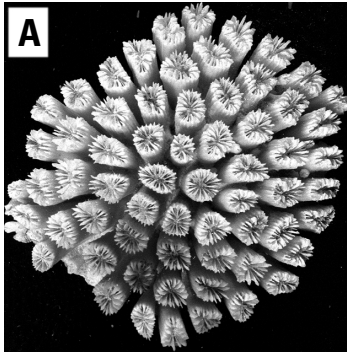
Submassive and Arborescent Corals

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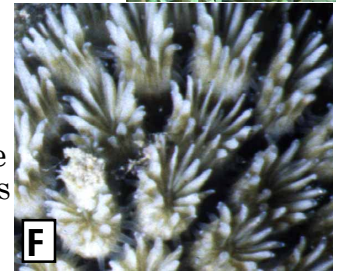
Family Oculinidae

Galaxea

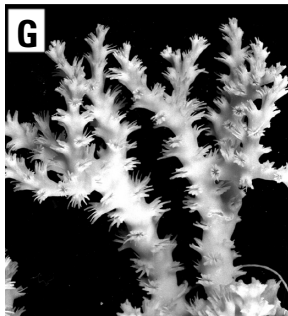
- common name: Galaxy Coral (4 species)
- colonies massive, columnar or encrusting



- A-B) corallite arrangement is plocoid
- A-E) corallites cylindrical and tubular; may protrude above coenosteum
- A-C) corallites >5 mm diameter; coenosteum with blistered surface
- A-F) septa exsert, with smooth margins
- C-D) tentacles always expanded; tentacles retract if disturbed



Acrhelia horrescens



- common name: none (1 species)
- colonies arborescent, bushy or open-branched

- G) corallites tubular, thin-walled with flared rims; septa exsert
- G) colony growth dendroid; form distinctive branched colonies that are widely spaced or bushy
- G) spiky corallites similar to *Galaxea*

Family Dendrophyllidae

Tubastraea: 4 species

Tubastraea/Dendrophyllia

Dendrophyllia: 14 species

- common name: Orange Tube Coral, Sunflower Coral, Orange Cup Coral
- colonies submassive or branching; corallites plocoid

- H-L) corallites 0.5-1.5 cm diameter; raised above coenosteum; corallites have smooth appearance; black (H), yellow (I), orange (K), or green (L) in color; tentacles expanded at night

